



AND **Locate25** | **G**  
THE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL CONFERENCE

Presented at the FIG Working Week 2025,  
6-10 April 2025 in Brisbane, Australia  
**FIG** **Geospatial**  
Council of Australia  
Brisbane, Australia 6-10 April

Collaboration, Innovation and Resilience: Championing a Digital Generation

# Improving resilience through an understanding-driven, coordinated, and collaborative capacity building approach

**Aaron Hick**

Geospatial Professional

email: [aaronjhick@gmail.com](mailto:aaronjhick@gmail.com)

Whatsapp: +61420654609



PLATINUM SPONSORS



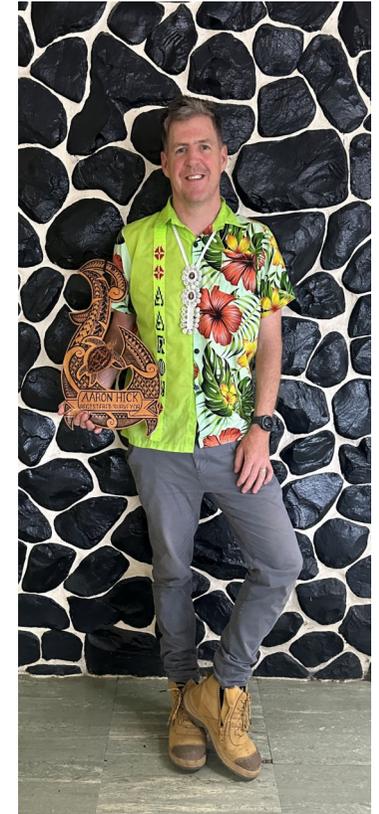
## Acknowledgement of Country

*I'd like to acknowlege First Nations people and the traditional custodians of lands, both here in Australia and internationally, in the communities where we work, and to recognise the substantial contributions they continue to make in terms of stewardship and care for the land and its resources*

## Inspiration

- Volunteer / Consultant - unique opportunity to view and communicate
- Pasifika colleagues (in particular) who've showcased their work and challenges
- Observing sub-optimal outcomes / missed opportunities for engagement in the Pacific
- Well-meaning but misplaced / misunderstood attempts at support in the Pacific
- Super excited by recent changes to coordination of support and opportunities
  - Appointment of PGSC Partnership Desk Coordinator role (Andrick Lal)
  - UniSQ, UN-GGCE, FIG-YS and other opportunities

Goal – to inspire a collective effort towards sustainably building knowledge and capacity in the global geospatial community



## Observations

- Many working with limited collaboration
- Missed opportunities for consultants from developed nations to understand needs and engage with colleagues to share knowledge
- Pasifika colleagues voicing their concerns or requests but not being heard / understood
  - Minimisation of challenges when engaging and seeking solutions



## Cultural Communication Considerations



### LOW CONTEXT



Info clearly stated

OK to clarify



Clear standards

More public information



Knowledge is transferable

### HIGH CONTEXT

Implicit / Unspoken

Relationships are key

Trust is key

Facial Expressions /

Non-verbal cues



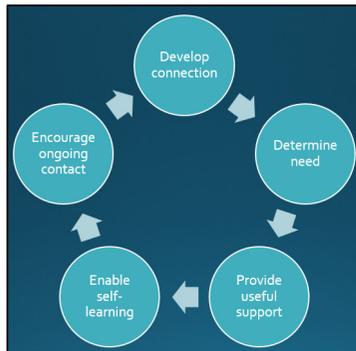
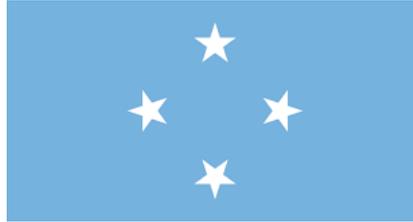
## Experience-Based Support Approach

- Effective and appropriate support model, based on
  - Understanding
  - Collaboration
  - Empowering colleagues
- Consistency and time = yields mutually beneficial, long-term results
- Don't assume, ask questions. You might be surprised!
- Take initiative to connect and communicate colleagues in local survey / spatial departments



## Example - Micronesia

- Port Project – Survey and GIS team
- Exposure to RPAS, integration to aviation crew
- Led to an opportunity to deliver ongoing training
- New opportunities for Pohnpei



## Example - Kiribati



- Project integration
  - Assistants, incidental upskilling
  - Software and hardware
- Kiribati Women in Mapping - KWIM (trainings, here today)



## Considerations When Offering Support

### IS IT BENEFICIAL?

- Directly relevant / fit for purpose
- Requires understanding of situation

### IS IT TARGETED AT THE RIGHT PEOPLE / EXPERIENCE?

- At the right level / experience
- Don't assume

### HOW IS IT STRUCTURED?

- As time will likely be short, can this be a staged delivery?
- What will follow?

### WILL IT HAVE LONGEVITY?

- Software / Hardware cost and license implications



## Communication Considerations for Experts Offering Support

- Make effort / be proactive in communication – deliver in suitable format
- Work hard understand the need and deliver in a way that is useful
- Provide support documentation **and support to utilise it**
- Develop networks, encourage continued access to support
- Regular check-ins
- Don't assume!



## Communication Considerations – Pasifika Colleagues

- Try to be responsive – there are no silly questions!
- Think about what you need / want or what would be helpful
- Not everything can be done at once!
- Recognise that time will be limited / valuable
- Try to outline any issues as they arise – availability, understanding, challenges etc



## What Can You Do? (Just Get Started!)

- Make a connection
- Develop communication over time
- Build networks with your contacts
- Offer ad-hoc support
  - General training / support on software and techniques
  - Be a sounding board, open to questions
- Learn about cultural differences
- Support funding opportunities / applications – (e.g. travel to conferences)
- Equipment (caution!)



## Formal Opportunities & Programs

More formalised

- Contact Andrick Lal!
- PSCG Partnership Desk (focal point)

Volunteer (VSA/AVI)

- Reach out, be proactive
- Flow on effects (Bill and training)

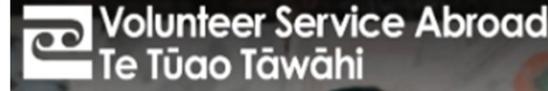
UniSQ (ask your education institute!)

- New Colombo Plan

FIG

- YS / CDN?
- What else can be done?

**PGSC**



University of Southern Queensland



## Need to Convince Your Employer?

- Staff retention
  - Engagement
  - Social Good
- Repeat business / expanded skills
- Added value (more wins)
- ESG / corporate social responsibility – especially big consultancies are looking for ways of promoting this to the world



## Need to Convince Yourself?

- Feeling of achievement / benefit / pride
- Volunteer = feel like you get more out of it than you're able to give.
- My shirt & new and exciting experiences & opportunities
- Travel and networking opportunities, new friends





AND **Locate25** | **G**  
 THE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL CONFERENCE

Collaboration, Innovation and Resilience:  
 Championing a Digital Generation



Brisbane, Australia 6–10 April

I hope you are inspired to seek opportunities to engage in a collective effort towards building knowledge and capacity sustainably in the global geospatial community

Kam rabwa, Kaselehlie, Thank you

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

International Federation of Surveyors supports the Sustainable Development Goals



PLATINUM SPONSORS

